

# Development of communication

Information for parents and carers



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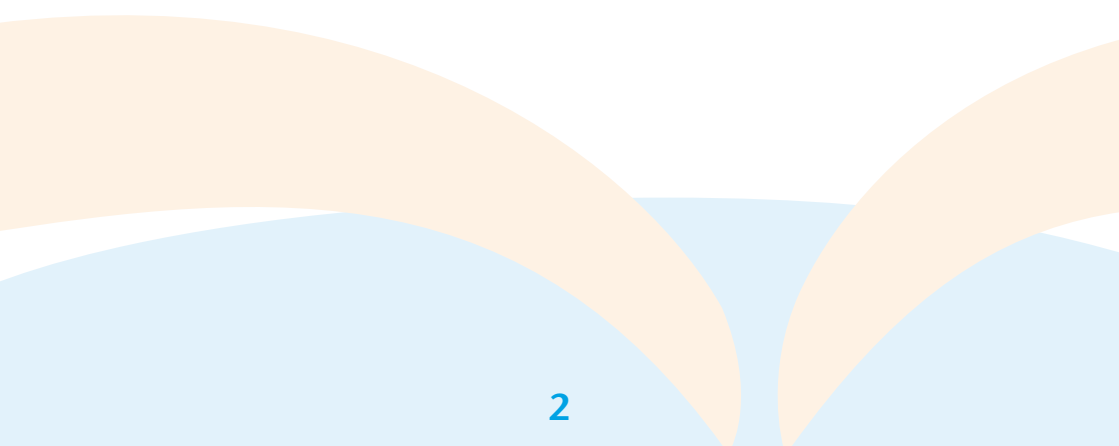


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# What to expect

## One to six months

- Knows mum or main carer is there
- Cries, screams, smiles and looks at familiar people
- Babbles and gurgles and enjoys making sounds in turns
- Answers to loud, angry and friendly voices

## Six to nine months

- Answers to name
- Watches and sees what's going on around them
- Laughs
- Makes faces
- Reaches or pats self in the mirror
- Listens to own sounds and those of others

## Nine to 12 months

- Shouts, points and signals to get attention
- Points and signals to things
- Looks to make eye contact

- Mimes or acts out what he wants to say
- Plays peek-a-boo
- Sometimes uses single words, for example, mama, dada, car and ball
- Understands simple instructions within routines
- Understands “no”

## 12 months plus

- Waves goodbye
- Plays pat-a-cake
- Gives toys when asked
- Laughs a lot
- Shows a lot of love
- Makes noises and pats parents or carers lovingly
- Often uses single words and joins two or more words
- Likes to make sounds - for example, animal noises

## 18 months plus

- Will start to use more than one example such as look, signal, point at a toy to share with parent

- Copies housework, for example, wiping up spills or setting the table
- Uses 10 to 20 words including people's names
- Uses words to make needs known - for example, 'more' or 'up'
- When asked, points to eyes, nose, toes
- When asked, brings a familiar object from another room
- Follows simple instructions
- Answers simple who, what and where questions like
- 'Who's that?' or 'Where's daddy?'

## 24 months plus

- Begins to control behavior verbally, such as saying "no"
- Talks to other children as well as adults
- Likes to hear the same story over and over again
- When asked will tell you their first name
- Uses about 15 to 20 words
- Can name common objects and pictures

## 30 to 36 months

- Interactive skills carry on developing with children and adults
- Uses 100 words or more
- Joining three words or more to make comments or requests
- Asks why questions
- Pretend play develops - for example, play shopping, putting dolly to bed





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